

POOL REPORT # 2Motorcade from Airport to Rizal Monument
and Monument to Presidential Residence

December 5, 1975

The President stood up through the hatch of his limousine with President Marcos for about half the seven mile route. The trip took about an hour, some 40 minutes longer than scheduled. It was kept at a slow pace apparently to allow the crowd to see him and wave. When the pair were standing, the President stood on the right with a garland of flowers hanging to his waist and Marcos on his left.

The President appeared to enjoy the tumultuous turn-out and repeated the gesture at costumes or theatrical routines that interested him.

When the pair was standing up, three agents stood behind them. Restraining lines broke down at several points beginning half way along the route and at several points agents leaped off the trailing back-up car to run along side. The only things thrown at the President's car were flower petals.

There were hundreds of different Philippino groups doing various routines with every kind of prop imagineable. They began singing, waiving their flowers, etc. as the head of the motorcade approached. At several points when crowds of youngsters pushed across the divided highway (General Roxas Boulevard), agents became especially alert but there were no incidents and the President's car at no point in view of poolers touched any pedestrians.

At several of the 14-story construction projects along the route, men in uniform could be seen stationed in the scaffolding.

Poolers saw only one unfriendly sign along the route, a small one referring to U.S. bases. At 5:04 pm a Secret Service agent leapt off the running board of the President's car and began running along the side as the crowd surged forward, and that was repeated at several points along the route.

Where the roadway permitted, 2 light trucks swung to the opposite side of the divided boulevard and focused giant spots on the President and Marcos to illuminate them under the gloomy clouds. At several points balloons were released as the President's car passed by, one group of balloons carrying a 4-foot sign reading, "Welcome President Ford".

Music was provided along the route by electronic amplifiers and different kinds of bands. Outside one restaurant a rock band had set up its amplifiers on the sidewalk and blasted away.

After the first half hour, during which the motorcade proceeded very slowly, the pace was picked up as we fell behind schedule.

It was obvious that tremendous preparation had gone into the welcoming ceremony. Lanterns were hung from trees, many thousands of small paper American flags had been distributed and each native-costumed group had its own props.

(Jim Squires has a separate pool report on the ceremonies at the Monument.)

MORE

At the Rizal Monument crowds were held back 50 yards from where the President laid the wreath.

After the motorcade left the Monument, it took a right turn onto the avenue leading to the Malacanang Palace. At that point a fireworks demonstration began. The motorcade passed several groups of Philipinos posing as happy peasants tilling their fields etc. (Both Presidents remained inside their limousine throughout the rest of the motorcade).

Later on the motorcade passed a cock fight; handlers in a wooden pen set their birds to fighting just as the President's car approached. Cock fighting is illegal in the United States.

About that time the crowds broke out into song -- a pro-Marcos, pro-Mar-tial law anthem called "Have a New Life." The motorcade passed by several hundred girl scouts, some alter boys singing "Gloria in Excelsis Dio", and the San Miguel brewery, where a loud cheer erupted from the pool trucks.

Your poolers did not have an opportunity to get an official estimate, but we think a fair guess would be somewhere in the neighborhood of 1 million.

David Nyhan
Tom Defrank

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